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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,784	01/25/2006	Katsuhiro Kubota	060070	7550

23850 7590 01/31/2007
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP
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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

TA, THO DAC

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/31/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/565,784	KUBOTA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho D. Ta	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,7-10 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4,6 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/25/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12 is indefinite because it should read that "the slide-engaging part of the connector block or the power block enters into a dead space of the inner cover".

Claim 13 is indefinite because it should read that "the dead space is within the inner cover".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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5. Claims 1, 5, 7-10, 12, 13, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwata (6,430,054).

In regard to claim 1, Iwata discloses a junction block 1 comprising: an inner cover 4; connector blocks 11, 12 and a power block 13 disposed outside the inner cover 4; and busbars 6 and a wiring module 5 disposed being piled up within a space surrounded by the connector blocks 11, 12 and the power block 13, wherein terminals of the connector blocks, terminals of the power block and terminals of the busbars 6 are connected to the wiring module 5.

In regard to claim 5, Iwata discloses the terminals 24c of the connector blocks and/or the terminals 26a of the power block and/or the terminals 27 of the busbars are pressure welding terminals.

In regard to claim 7, Iwata discloses an electronic unit 9 is mounted on the back of the inner cover 4 and connected to terminals 30a arranged on the back of the busbars 6.

In regard to claim 8, Iwata discloses the inner cover 4, the connector blocks 11, 12 and the power block 13 are slidably combined.

In regard to claim 9, Iwata discloses a junction block 1 comprising: an inner cover 4; and a power block 13 and connector blocks 11, 12 combined with the inner cover 4,

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wherein components such as circuit boards 5 are disposed and connected within a space surrounded by the power block 13 and the connector blocks 11, 12, wherein the power block 13 and the connector blocks 11, 12 form the outside of the junction block 1.

In regard to claim 10, Iwata discloses the combination of the power block 13 and the connector blocks 11, 12 with the inner cover 4 is carried out by engaging a slide-engaging part (on the connector housing) with a guide part 9 in a direction crossing the inner cover 4 at right angles.

In regard to claim 12, Iwata discloses the slide-engaging part 9 of the connector block or the power block enters into a dead space 23.

In regard to claim 13, Iwata discloses the dead space is within the inner cover 4.

In regard to claim 15, Iwata discloses the combination of the power block 13 and the connector blocks 11, 12 with the inner cover 4 is carried out in the vicinity of a mount 9 of the inner cover 4.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2-4, 6, 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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7. Claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In regard to claim 2, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the wiring module consists of a random wiring module and a cross wiring module; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to claim 4, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the terminals of the connector blocks and/or the terminals of the power block are arranged in a plurality of steps, wherein the terminals arranged in a lower step are connected to a narrow lower wiring module while the terminals arranged in an upper step are connected to a wide upper wiring module; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to claim 6, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the power block includes fuses outside and a relay inside; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to claim 11, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest one of the connector blocks is combined with the inner cover, while the other connector block is combined with the power block; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to claim 14, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the slide-engaging part that enters into the dead space consists of a rib and an outside wall that covers an end and the front of the rib; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

tdt
01/25/07


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER